JPE SC177
APR 3 0 2004
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

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8/Req for Recons'd
5-7-04
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Docket No.: 50353-584

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of	:	Customer Number: 20277
Kazuhito KATO, et al.	:	Confirmation Number: 4697
Serial No.: 10/070,951	:	Group Art Unit: 3611
Filed: March 13, 2002	:	Examiner: NGUYEN, Kimnhung

For: DISPLAY APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR AUTOMOTIVE VEHICLE

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.111

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Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Honorable Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The following remarks are submitted in response to the Official Action mailed February 25, 2004. Claims 1-19 are now active in this application.

The courtesy of the interview conducted on April 21, 2004, is acknowledged and appreciated. The Interview Summary, PTOL-413, accurately states the substance of the interview.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 AND § 103

I. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 8, 10, 11 and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hayashi (EP 0953826).

Claims 3 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayashi in view of Teresi et al. (USPN 6,505,503) and Tanaka (USPN 6,470,265).

Claims 6, 9 and 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayashi in view of Tanaka.

II. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Anticipation, under 35 U.S.C. § 102, requires that each element of the claim in issue be found, either expressly described or under principles of inherency, in a single prior art reference. ***Kalman v. Kimberly-Clark Corp.***, 713 F.2d 760, 218 USPQ 781 (Fed. Cir. 1983).

The subject matter recited in independent claims 1, 2, 16 and 17 is substantially different from the disclosures of Hayashi, Tanaka and Teresi et al, considered alone or in combination.

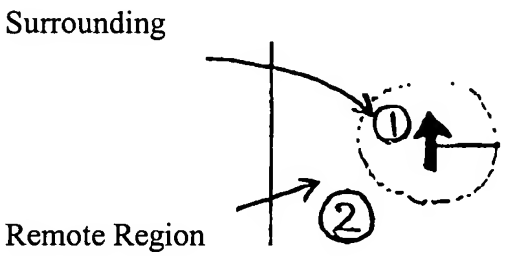
In the present invention, in a display apparatus of a vehicular navigation system, in order to prevent a vehicle driver from possibly having a troubled feeling viewing the image display screen ***when the contents of the display image screen are rotated***, the region surrounding the host vehicle that is near to the host vehicle position is made to be displayed differently (e.g., clearer – claim 2) than the region which is remote from the host vehicle position, while the remote region is displayed with gradation.

In contrast, in Hayashi, in order to prevent the (character) information from being overlapped with each other when the road map display is rotated, the information is ***selectively***

displayed. Thus, while the feature that the display is varied in accordance with the rotation of the display contents is common to the present invention and to Hayashi, the manners of displaying in the present invention and in Hayashi are wholly different from each other. More specifically, in Hayashi the display form of the region surrounding the host vehicle that is near to the host vehicle position ***is the same as*** that of the region which is remote from the host vehicle position; i.e., information is ***selectively displayed*** to prevent information from becoming overlapped.

Thus, the feature of the present invention that the region surrounding (1 below) the host vehicle that is near to the host vehicle ***is displayed differently*** (e.g., clearly – claim 2) than that of the remote region (2 below), which is displayed with gradation (shade off or vignette), is not disclosed or suggested in Hayashi.

Display screen of the Present Invention



The structure of the present invention is wholly different from that of Hayashi. This structural difference results in it being difficult for Hayashi to prevent a vehicle driver from possibly having a troubled feeling viewing the image display screen when the contents of the display image screen are rotated since the display form of the region surrounding the host vehicle that is near to the host vehicle position will be the same as that of the region which is remote

from the host vehicle position. Consequently, Hayashi particularly cannot exhibit the same advantage as the present invention.

As described above, it is impossible for Hayashi, whose structure and advantage are substantially different from that of the present invention, to anticipate the inventions recited in independent claims 1, 2, 16 and 17.

In any case, the subject matter of the present invention concerns an image display apparatus for an automotive vehicle, and in particular, the display control section that rotates the road map data image displayed on an image screen of the image display section in accordance with the traveling direction of the vehicle and that ***varies the display form of the displayed road map data image between the region of the road map data image which is near to the displayed position at which the vehicle is present and the other region of the road map data image which is remote from the displayed position of the vehicle when rotating the road map data image on the image screen*** displayed on the image display section.

That is to say, the subject matter of Applicants' invention concerns the display control section which provides a view on the display screen that is not troublesome to the driver when the contents of the display image screen are rotated, and which also is pleasing in appearance.

With regard to independent claim 3, even if, as noted by the Examiner, Hayashi does not disclose a velocity-calculation section that calculates one of circumferential velocity and angular velocity, Teresi et al. disclose a vehicle sensor system having a sensor to calculate velocity and Tanaka discloses a route guidance, these references, considered alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest ***adjusting a display form*** of the displayed image screen ... ***according to a magnitude of*** at least one of the circumferential velocity and the angular velocity calculated by the velocity calculating section.

With regard to dependent claim 6, Tanaka discloses that ***satellite image data*** (of the ground surface captured by a satellite and transmitted to vehicles) ***must be corrected*** to have brightness and color at a predetermined level so as to correct to a human-friendly image. The correction is necessary because of the nature of image data captured by an orbiting satellite. In the example provided in Tanaka, since a satellite passes from north to south of Japan in about three minutes, a shadow results due to a time lag or there is change in saturation depending on an angle of reflected light. Since the image data of Hayashi is not image data captured from a satellite and then transmitted to the vehicle, the correcting of the obtained satellite image data to have brightness and color at a predetermined level so as to correct to a human-friendly image has no relevance to the image data of Hayashi.

With regard to dependent claim 11, Hayashi does not disclose a predicting section that ***predicts*** a direction of a traveling route of the vehicle and when the direction of the traveling route of the vehicle is varied through an angle equal to or wider than a predetermined angle, rotating the road map data image with the image of the vehicle as a center ***on the basis of a predicted data on the direction of the traveling route of the vehicle*** varied through an angle equal to or wider than the predetermined angle.

Finally, with regard to dependent claim 9, neither Hayashi nor Tanaka disclose or suggest varying the display form in such a manner as to superimpose the road map data image after the traveling direction of the vehicle is changed on that before the traveling direction of the vehicle is changed ... and ***to vary gradually a superimposition ratio of the road map data image*** after the traveling direction of the vehicle is changed to the road map image data before the road map data image is changed as the time has passed ***from 10 : 0 to 0 : 10***.

In view of the above, claims 1-19 are patentable over Hayashi, Teresi et al. and Tanaka, considered alone or in combination. Consequently, the allowance of claims 1-19 is respectfully solicited.

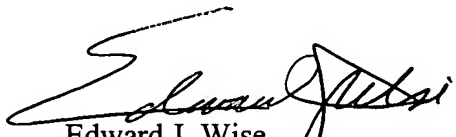
CONCLUSION

Accordingly, it is urged that the application is in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

McDERMOTT WILL & EMERY



Edward J. Wise
Registration No. 34,523

600 13th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005-3096
(202) 756-8000 EJW/dmd
DATE: April 30, 2004
Facsimile: (202) 756-8087